

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03173 252138 Z

61

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /092 W
----- 043360

O 252105 Z MAY 73

FM AMENBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0008

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3173

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

BUENOS AIRES FOR KUBISCH

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS BL

SUBJ: ZENTENO ANAYA OUT

1. A GOOD CIVILIAN SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THIS MORNING (MAY 25) THAT ARMED FORCES COMMANDER IN CHIEF JOAQUIN ZENTENO ANAYA SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT BANZER ON MAY 24. THIS REPORT WAS REPEATED LATER TODAY TO ARMATT BY RELIABLE SOURCES CLOSE BOTH TO PRESIDENT BANZER AND TO ZENTENO. NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME WHETHER EENTENO RESIGNED

VOLUNTARILY OR WAS DISMISSED, BUT PRESUMABLY HE WAS ASKED TO RESIGN. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE, BUT REPORTEDLY WILL BE DONE SUNDAY OR MONDAY.

2. COMMENT: BOTH EMBOFF AND ARMATT SOURCES INDICATED THAT MILITARY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 03173 252138 Z

INSTITUTION HAS ACCEPTED IDEA OF ZENTENO' S RESIGNATION. IF BANZER HANDLES THIS AS HE HAS HANDLED EARLIER CHANGES I HIGH MILITARY OFFICE, HE HAS PRESUMABLY PAVED THE WAY BY CONVINCING KEY MILITARY OFFICIALS OF THE NECESSITY FOR ZENTENO' S DEPARTURE AND ZENTENO WILL PRESUMABLY LEAVE HIS COMMAND WITH APPROPRIATE HONORS, POSSIBLY TO AN AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE BACKGROUND OF MILITARY UPHEAVAL OVER SELICH' S DEATH, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ZENTENO' S DEPARTURE COULD CAUSE CONSTERNATION IN SOME SECTORS OF THE MILITARY THAT COULD BE TROUBLESOME AND WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED.

3. ZENTENO' S RESIGNATION COMES AS NO GREAT SURPRISE. HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE SELICH AFFAIR (LA PAZ 3048 AND 3125) HAVE PUT HIM IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE ISSUE AND TO SOME EXTENT IN CONFLICT WITH BANZER VIS- A- VIS BANZER' S COMMITMENT TO COALITION GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE MILITARY MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENT' S WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPEECH (LA PAZ 3125) INVOLVED SOME CONFRONTATIION WITH ZENTENO. SIRACUSA

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PINS, BL
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